

Message Text

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13-12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 IO-11 OIC-02 /035 W

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R 150330Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1188

UNCLAS MANILA 0738

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, OCON, OTRA, RP

SUBJ: ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DELEGATES TO ANNUAL IMF/IBRD MEETING

1. THE ANNUAL IMF/IBRD MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MANILA FROM OCTOBER 4 TO OCTOBER 8, 1976. ALTHOUGH THIS IS NEARLY NINE MONTHS AWAY, WE THINK IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO THE MATTER OF ACCOMMODATIONS.

2. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO MAKING 2500 HOTEL ROOMS AVAILABLE TO THE IMF/IBRD FOR ATTENDING DELEGATIONS. THIS IS EXPECTED TO ACCOMMODATE THE ANTICIPATED 3500 TO 4000 DELEGATES AND GUESTS. THE GOP HAS BLOCKED OUT 1800 ROOMS, WHICH CONSTITUTES VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE FIRST CLASS ROOMS NOW AVAILABLE IN MANILA. AN EXTENSIVE HOTEL-BUILDING PROGRAM IS NOW UNDERWAY IN MANILA (13 NEW HOTELS OR MAJOR EXPANSIONS ARE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION), AND THE CENTRAL BANK (CB) COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF ACCOMMODATIONS PRO-FESSES CONFIDENCE THAT AN ADDITIONAL 700 ROOMS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY THE TIME OF THE MEETING. THIS MAY BE TRUE, BUT THE FACILITIES AND STAFFS AT A NUMBER OF THE NEW ESTABLISHMENTS ARE LIKELY TO BE RELATIVELY UNTRIED AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING.

3. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOP IS TO INSURE THAT ROOMS ARE AVAILABLE; ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS AND ROOM ASSIGNMENTS ARE TO BE HANDLED DIRECTLY BY THE IMF/IBRD. NEVERTHELESS, THE CB COMMITTEE HAS ASKED FOR ANY INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE ON REQUIREMENTS FOR THE U.S.

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DELEGATION, AND IN THE INTEREST OF PROMOTING A GOOD

RELATIONSHIP HERE, IF NOT FOR THE SAKE OF ADEQUATE ACCOMMODATIONS, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE RESPONSIVE. WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SECURE ANY MORE THAN EQUAL TREATMENT WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS, BUT WE CAN TRY TO DO BETTER THAN THAT. THE COMMITTEE HAS DELEGATION LISTS FROM LAST YEAR'S MEETING, AND AT THIS STAGE WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO INDICATE HOW THE 1976 U.S. DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO COMPARE IN TOTAL SIZE AND COMPOSITION. THIS INFORMATION WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL FOR THE EMBASSY'S OWN PLANNING PURPOSES.

4. FYI. IN DECEMBER, THE CENTAL BANK SENT LETTERS TO BOARD CHAIRMEN OF 14 U.S. COMMERCIAL BANKS CONCERNING THEIR HOTEL REQUIREMENTS. CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR LICAROS BELIEVES THAT THESE BANKS HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY HELPFUL TO THE PHILIPPINES IN THE PAST, AND HE INSTRUCTED THE CB COMMITTEE TO SEE THAT THEY BE GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION. END FYI.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE ON POSSIBLE SIZE AND COMPOSITION AND ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE 1976 IMF/IBRD MEETING.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA00738
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760016-0877
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760154/aaaabwcc.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mendozsm
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by mendozsm>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DELEGATES TO ANNUAL IMF/IBRD MEETING
TAGS: EFIN, OCON, OTRA, RP, IMF, IBRD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006